

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (canceled):

Claim 11. (currently amended) A device for changing the permeabilities of tubular wrappers of a series of at least substantially equidistant rod-shaped smokers' products, comprising:

means for emitting n laser beams; and

means for simultaneously directing the laser beams upon the wrappers of n products, n being a natural number greater than one and said directing means including ~~n~~ n - x movable mirrors arranged to deflect a plurality of beams making an acute angle the magnitude of which is a function of the distance between neighboring products of said series, ~~x~~ x being a natural number less than n.

Claim 12. (original) The device of claim 11, further comprising means for moving the products of the series along a predetermined path and means for oscillating each mirror to thus focus the beams upon the wrappers of selected products in said path.

Claim 13. (currently amended) The device of claim 12, wherein said directing means includes means for simultaneously focusing at least one discrete beam upon each of ~~m~~ m different portions of the wrapper of each of the series of products in said path, ~~m~~ m being a natural number exceeding one.

Claim 14. (currently amended) The device of claim 13, wherein said oscillating means includes means for oscillating the ~~n~~ n - x mirrors about a common axis.

Claim 15. (currently amended) The device of claim 11, wherein said mirrors include ~~$q = (m/p) - 1$~~ $q = m/p - 1$ partially transmitting mirrors arranged to split each of ~~p~~ p incident beams into a reflected first portion and a transmitted second portion, and at least one fully reflecting mirror for said second portions of the beams, ~~p~~ p being a natural number and ~~q~~ q being a natural number including zero.

Claim 16. (currently amended) Apparatus for treating smokers' products of the type wherein a rod-shaped component is surrounded by a tubular wrapper carrying a deformable strip, comprising:

a rolling unit having a plurality of surfaces defining a channel and including at least one first surface which moves relative to at least one second surface, said channel having an inlet and an outlet;

means for feeding into said inlet successive products of a series of products having tubular wrappers each of which is contacted by the respective strip whereby the wrappers are caused to roll due to contact with said surfaces and to thus convolute the respective strips thereabout in said channel; and

means for changing the permeabilities of the wrappers during rolling in a predetermined portion of said channel, comprising means for emitting at least one laser beam and comprising means for simultaneously perforating the wrappers of at least two products in said predetermined portion of said channel.

Claim 17. (original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said channel includes an additional portion which is disposed at said inlet and the strips are convoluted around the respective wrappers in said additional portion of said channel, said predetermined portion of said channel immediately following said additional portion, as seen in a direction from said inlet toward said outlet, said perforating means being arranged to change the permeabilities of the wrappers of products at least in said predetermined portion of said channel.

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Applicant: Manfred DOMBEK

Claim 18. (original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said perforating means is constructed and arranged to start the perforating of wrappers in said additional portion of said channel.

Claim 19. (original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein at least a portion of said channel has an arcuate shape.

Claim 20. (original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said rolling unit comprises a rotary conveyor having a cylindrical peripheral surface constituting said at least one first surface, and a stationary rolling member having a concave surface concentric with and spaced apart from said peripheral surface and constituting said at least one second surface.